

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

- (a) at least three sidewalls with corners therebetween, the sidewalls defining an internal space for storage of at least one item and a storage area, the shape of the storage area depending on the number of the sidewalls;
- (b) the sidewalls being foldable about the corners for ease of storage;
- (c) the sidewalls having an open base and an open top;
- (d) a pallet with a planar top onto which the sidewalls are placed; and
- (e) each sidewall of the container having at least one perforated line to enable the height of the sidewalls to be varied, wherein the at least one perforated line is parallel to an edge of the open base for folding,

wherein the sidewalls and the pallet combine to form an open top box and the top of the pallet forms a base for the sidewalls, the storage area being disposed immediately adjacent the planar top of the pallet, the open base of the sidewalls allowing at least one item to be placed directly on the pallet and within the storage area.

2. (Original) A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sidewalls are made of a material selected from the group consisting of: cardboard, treated cardboard and a plastics material.

3. (Original) A container as claimed in claim 2, wherein the material is weather-resistant.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sidewalls are foldable along the at least one perforated line to vary the height of the sidewalls.

6. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sidewalls are shearable along the at least one perforated line to vary the height of the sidewalls.

7. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the top being of a length and width slightly greater than the corresponding dimensions of the sidewalls.

8. (Original) A container as claimed in claim 7, wherein a gap is formed between an outer edge of the at least three sidewalls and a peripheral edge of the top of the pallet.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cover is shaped to conform with the internal space defined by the sidewalls and comprises a cover top, and cover sides, the cover being adapted to be readily removable over the open top and locatable on an outer surface of the at least three sidewalls in the manner of a snug fit.

11. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pallet is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of: cardboard, plastics and treated cardboard.

12. (Original) A container as claimed in claim 11, wherein the material is weather resistant.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 7, wherein the top of the pallet forms a solid base for the sidewalls.

16. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 8, wherein the top of the pallet forms a solid base for the sidewalls.

17. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a cover for the open top and the internal space.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A single standardized container that may be customized to meet the needs of different load and height requirements of objects to be stored and transported comprising the container as claimed in claim 1.

20. (Previously Presented) A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the storage area has a triangular, rectangular, pentagonal or octagonal shape.

21. (New) A method of shipping an object on a pallet comprising:

providing a pallet having a substantially planar top;

providing a container comprising at least three sidewalls, the sidewalls defining a storage area therebetween, and an open base, each sidewall having at least one perforated line to enable the height of each sidewall to be varied, wherein the at least one perforated line is parallel to an edge of the open base for folding;

placing the edge of the open base onto the substantially planar top of the pallet so that the substantially planar top of the pallet forms a substantially planar base to the sidewalls; and

placing an object within the storage area and directly on the substantially planar top of the pallet for transportation of the object on the pallet.